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(54) MEASURING AND DISPENSING DEVICE

(71) We, ENGELHARD MINERALS & CHEMICALS CORPORATION, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, United States of America, of 430 Mountain Avenue, Murray Hill, New Jersey, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to devices for measuring and dispensing flowing materials, for example, powdered, granular or liquid substances. More particularly, the invention relates to measuring and dispensing of granular alloy or metal, or mercury which are used in making fillings for teeth.

Some new metal alloys require less mercury for their use. In consequence, more precise measurement and control of the quantity of mercury is required than was feasible with prior measuring and dispensing devices.

Moreover, changes in the proportions of the materials are necessary from time to time, such as to provide a dry or wet mixture of alloy and mercury, i.e., mixtures containing smaller or larger amounts of mercury, respectively.

In a known prior device, disclosed in the U.S. Patent to S. J. Krivig No. 2,081,544, upon which the present invention is an improvement, a slidable dispensing member has a measuring chamber normally communicating with an inlet port for material to be measured and dispensed. On sliding the dispensing member, the chamber is moved to communicate with a discharge port. The amount of material in the measuring chamber may be varied by a screw-threaded rod adjustable axially in position along the slidable dispensing member to cause its end to enter the chamber to vary the volume of the chamber. But this device requires internal and external screw-threading of parts for adjustment of the valve member and does not provide the desired precision and

control of the amount of material dispensed. 50

Therefore, it is an object of the invention to provide an adjustable measuring device and dispenser, for flowing materials in general and mercury in particular, which will more accurately and precisely measure a pre-selected amount than heretofore. 55

Another object is to provide a device as aforesaid which may be produced at lower manufacturing cost than heretofore.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear as the invention is described in connection with the accompanying drawings. 60

According to the invention, there is provided a device for measuring and dispensing flowing materials, comprising a casing having an inlet port and a discharge port for inflow and discharge of the material, a measuring and dispensing member slidable in a passageway in said casing, said member having a longitudinally extending passage one end of which comprises a measuring chamber, said member including openings for connecting said ports with said chamber, a valve member slidably mounted in said longitudinal passage to vary the volume of said measuring chamber, means engaging said valve member and manually operable in a direction transverse to the direction of movement of said valve member for controlling the volume of said measuring chamber. 65 70 75 80

One embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which: 85

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view of a device embodying the invention mounted on a bottle.

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged inverted cross-sectional view taken along line 2—2 of Figure 1. 90

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged inverted cross-sectional view taken along line 3—3 of Figure 1. 95

FIGURE 4 is a transverse sectional view taken along line 4—4 of Figure 3.

FIGURE 5 is a perspective view of the

operating cam member used in the invention.

Referring to the form illustrated in the drawing, a casing or body member 10, embodying the invention is mounted on a bottle or other container F. The body 10 which may be round at its lower or inner end converges upwardly from its midportion to a round top 12. Although a preferred exterior shape is shown, it will be understood that the body may have other suitable shape.

A cylindrical discharge port or passage 14 runs from the outer end of the top 12 inwardly toward the container F to connect with a cylindrical passageway 16, which extends transversely from one side of the casing 10 diametrically through to the other side.

Spaced along the passageway 16 from the discharge port 14 and extending in a diametrically opposite direction is a cylindrical inlet port or passage 18 opening into an internally threaded socket or recess in the body member 10 and adapted to receive the threaded neck F¹ of a glass bottle or similar container containing the material to be dispensed.

In the transverse passageway 16 is located a cylindrical measuring and dispensing member 20 having in the midportion thereof a measuring chamber consisting of one end of an axial bore 23 and cylindrical inlet and outlet openings 22¹, 22¹¹. The openings 22¹, 22¹¹ may be of the same circular cross-sectional area as the inlet and discharge ports 18 and 14 but preferably are of larger cross-sectional area, in order to take into account possible misalignment of the openings 22¹, 22¹¹ with the ports 18 and 14, to permit free movement of the mercury or other material.

The dispensing member 20 is slidable from one position to another, i.e., from a measuring to a discharge position. In the measuring position, the measuring chamber opening 22¹ registers, with the inlet port 18 to receive a measured amount or dosage of material from the container. As the member moves to the discharge position, it conveys the dosage to the discharge port wherein the chamber opening 22¹¹ comes into register therewith.

In order to bias the dispensing member 20 normally into the measuring position, a coiled compression spring 26 is positioned around the dispensing member 20 between the casing 10 and the overlapping head of screw 27 in the end of the dispensing member 20.

In order to prevent rotation of the dispensing member 20, a radially extending pin 21 is mounted on the dispensing member in a position to lie within a longitudinally extending channel 15 formed in the passage-

way 16, in all positions of the dispensing member.

In order to vary the volume of the measuring chamber with great precision and accuracy, a movable valve member designated generally by numeral 24 is provided. The valve member has a cylindrical stem 24s, which is slidably received in the axial bores 23 of the dispensing member 20. As shown, the diameter of the bore 23 is larger than the diameter of the inlet and outlet parts of the measuring chamber 22 thus enlarging the central portion of the measuring chamber. The valve has a dome-shaped head 24h which is located in an enlargement or counter-bore 25 at the outer end of the bore 23. As will be described, the inner end of the valve stem may be extended into the measuring chamber 22 variable amounts to vary the dosage which the chamber 22 can accept. The valve member 24 is normally biased outwardly by a coiled compression spring 26a coiled around its stem and pressing at one end against the shoulder at the inner end of the counter-bore 25 and at its other end against the shoulder between the head 25h and stem 24s of the valve member.

To regulate and adjust the position of the valve member 24, a manually operable cam member 30 is slidably located in a diametrical slot 28 formed in the end of the dispensing member 20 adjacent the valve head. As shown in Figure 5, the cam member 30 has flat parallel sides 32, 33, extending between parallel end faces 34, 35, and a longitudinal flat cam face extending transversely between the parallel sides 32, 33 and inclined between the ends 37, 38, thereby providing shoulder 39 at the end 38.

Under urge of spring 26a, the head 24h of the valve member is biased against the cam face 36. Movement of the cam member 30 in one direction is limited by a rib or small lateral extension 32x from the side 33 at the end 37. A similar rib 33x for a similar purpose is provided at the end 38 in extension of the side 33.

To hold the cam 30 in slot 28 in a predetermined position, a cylindrical cap member 29 is internally threaded and screwed over the open end of the dispensing member 20 until the periphery or rim of the open end of the cap, pressing against the straight surface of the cam member locates the cam member and valve member in the desired position, preferably where the inner end of the valve stem is tangential to the passages 22¹, 22¹¹ in the dispensing member 20.

Preferably, the side face or faces of the cam member are marked with positions or calibrations such as A to E so that the dispensing member can be set for a desired

dosage by reference to the calibrations. The device is accurate to $\pm 1\%$ when delivering between 288 and 403 milligrams of mercury.

In operation of the device, with the body 10 and bottle F upright, as shown in Figure 1, the dispensing member 20 is slid to locate the measuring chamber 22 in register with the inlet port 18, and adjustment cam 30 is slid along the slot 28 into the position which will provide the desired dosage. The sliding action of the cam 32 moves the valve member 24 axially, projecting its stem 24s into the chamber 22 the desired amount, thereby determining the amount of mercury or other material the chamber can receive. The device is then inverted and the dispensing member 20 is slid to place the measuring chamber in register with the discharge port 14 for discharge of the measured amount from the measuring chamber.

From the foregoing, it will be noted that the device is assembled from simple uncomplicated parts which can be inexpensively manufactured and easily assembled. Moreover, without the use of screw-threaded parts, variation of the volume of the measuring chamber can be quickly, easily and accurately made, whereby a device that is less expensive and more precise than heretofore is provided.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A device for measuring and dispensing flowing materials, comprising a casing having an inlet port and a discharge port for inflow and discharge of the material, a measuring and dispensing member slidable in a passageway in said casing, said member having a longitudinally extending passage one end of which comprises a measuring chamber, said member including openings for connecting said ports with said chamber, a valve member slidably mounted in said longitudinal passage to vary the volume of said measuring chamber, means engaging said valve member and manually operable in a direction transverse to the direction of movement of said valve member for controlling the volume of said measuring chamber.

2. A device as claimed in claim 1 where-

in the valve member engaging means is movable in one direction to decrease the volume of the chamber, and said device has means biasing said valve member to increase the volume of the chamber as said manually operable member is moved in an opposite direction.

3. A device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 in which said manually operable means is a rectilinearly movable member having a cam surface engaging said valve member to move it.

4. A device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 in which said valve member has a cylindrical stem portion and a curved head and said manually operable means is a rectilinearly movable member having a cam surface engaging said valve head.

5. A device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 in which said measuring and dispensing member is cylindrical and has a slot at one end, and said manually operable means is a rectilinearly movable member slidable in said slot.

6. A device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 in which said measuring and dispensing member is cylindrical and has a slot at one end, and said manually operable means is a rectilinearly movable member slidable in said slot and a member mounted on the slotted end of said dispensing member holding said rectilinearly movable member in said slot.

7. A device as claimed in claim 2, or any of claims 3 to 6 when dependent on claim 2, in which said manually operable means is a separate member movable in a direction transverse to the direction of movement of said valve member.

8. A device for measuring and dispensing flowing materials, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as illustrated in, the accompanying drawings.

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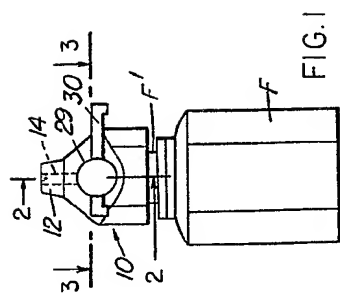


FIG. 1

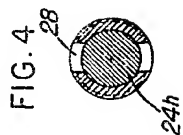


FIG. 4

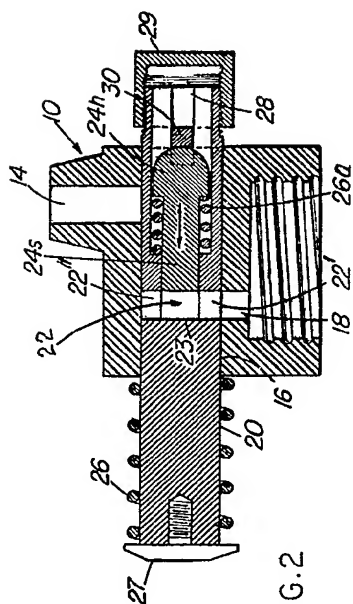


FIG. 2

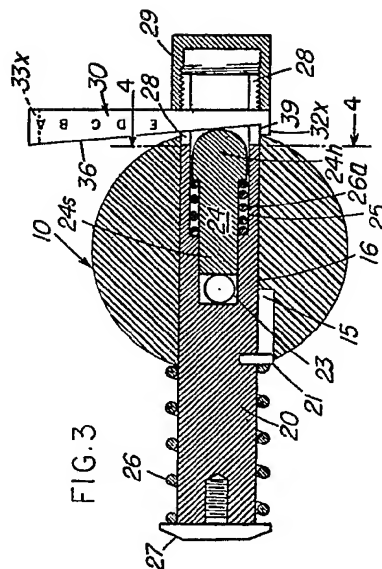


FIG. 3

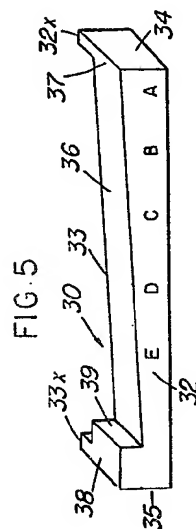


FIG. 5